

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 15 are currently in the application.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 2, 4-7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The reel is now defined in amended claim 1 on which claims 2, 4-7, and 9. Claims 2, 4-7, and 9 now comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 5,992,717 to Clewes et al.

Clewes et al. disclose a fishing rod 100 with a rod shaft and a unique reel seat which is secured on the rod shaft. A reel assembly 104 is directly mounted on the reel seat. This is contrary to the present invention which discloses two reel seats: an auxiliary reel seat and a rod shaft reel seat. The reel is mounted to the auxiliary reel seat inserted into the cavity of a hollow cylinder having a cylinder mounting foot engaged with the rod shaft reel seat. The rod shaft reel seat is in turn mounted to the rod shaft of the fishing rod.

The mounting feet 34, 36 extending outwardly from a case (tube 32) of Clewes et al. are releasably engaged with a hip plate 12 mounted on the fisherman garments. The rod 100 is connected to the case 32 by inserting the rod 100 into the case 32 and not through the mounting feet 34, 36. The case 32 does not include a mounting foot engaging the rod shaft reel seat, which is mounted to the rod shaft. That teaches away from the present invention wherein the hollow cylinder has a cylinder mounting foot releasably engaged with the rod shaft reel seat for mounting the hollow cylinder to the rod shaft.

Referring to FIG. 1, there is shown that the section of the rod 100 inserted in the case 32 is a portion of the rod shaft. The reel assembly is mounted to the rod shaft 100 in front of the case 32 in which the rod shaft 100 is inserted. This is contrary to the present invention in which at least a portion of the auxiliary reel seat is slidably inserted into the cavity of the hollow

cylinder with the reel extending outwardly therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is novel over Clewes et al. and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 2,995,855 to Bell.

Bell teaches a fishing rod with a rod shaft and a unique reel seat which is secured on the rod shaft. A reel assembly 26 is directly mounted (FIGS. 3 and 4) on the reel seat. This is contrary to the present invention which provides for two reel seats: an auxiliary reel seat and a rod shaft reel seat. The reel is mounted to the auxiliary reel seat inserted into the cavity of a hollow cylinder having a cylinder mounting foot engaged with the rod shaft reel seat.

The mounting feet 12, 14 which extend outwardly from Bell's case 13 are secured to a vertical support plate 11 mounted on the fisherman garments. The rod is connected to the case 13 by inserting the rod into the case 13 and not through the mounting feet 12, 14. The case does not include a mounting foot engaging the rod shaft reel seat, which is mounted to the rod shaft. That teaches away from the present invention wherein the hollow cylinder has a cylinder mounting foot releasably engaged with the rod shaft reel seat for mounting the hollow cylinder to the rod shaft.

Referring to FIGS. 3 and 4, there is shown that the section of the rod inserted in the case 13 is a portion of the rod shaft including the rod shaft reel seat. This is contrary to the present invention wherein at least a portion of the auxiliary reel seat is inserted in the cavity of the hollow cylinder. The cylinder mounting foot is releasably engaged with the rod shaft reel seat for mounting the hollow cylinder to the rod shaft.

Amended claim 1 is patentable over Bell and claims 2, 6, 7 and 9 depend from an allowable independent claim 1.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 5,732,500 to Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick discloses an adaptor for mounting simultaneously two fishing reels to a fishing

rod. The adaptor includes a mounting foot 2 with a stem 4 and a bridge 6 running longitudinally with the fishing rod 28. The bridge 6 has a plurality of shoes 8, 10, 12, 14 for attachably mounting a plurality of reels to the bridge 6. As clearly shown in FIG. 4, the bridge 6 is a rod, which is not hollow and does not define a longitudinal cavity, on which the mounting feet of the reels are secured with the shoes 8, 10, 12, 14. Therefore, the outer surface of the bridge 6 and the shoes 8, 10, 12, 14 define the auxiliary reel seat. The auxiliary reel seat is directly attached to the fishing rod 28 through the mounting foot 2. This is contrary to the present invention wherein at least a portion of the auxiliary reel seat is releasably and slidably inserted into a cavity of an hollow cylinder, which, in turn, is mounted to the rod shaft through the engagement of the cylinder mounting foot and the rod shaft reel seat.

The bridge 6, or case, of Fitzpatrick is not conceived for the insertion of the auxiliary reel seat therein, as stated in claim 1 of the instant application. The auxiliary reel seats are defined on the outer surface of the bridge. That teaches away from the present invention where at least a portion of the auxiliary reel seat assembly is releasably and slidably inserted into a cavity of an hollow cylinder.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is novel over Fitzpatrick and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 7-9 depend on claim 1 and are also believed to be novel.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 3,556,365 to Bull.

Bull teaches a hollow cylinder 14 for supporting a reel 10 and inserting a rod 16 in a cavity therein. The hollow cylinder 14 has a mounting foot (portion of 14 between 22 and 32), as stated in the office action, which is secured to arcuate traverse support member 28 having its ends connected to a waist belt 30 with a bolt 20. Bull does not teach a cylinder mounting foot engaging the hollow cylinder to the rod shaft. This is contrary to the present invention wherein the hollow cylinder has a cylinder mounting foot protruding outwardly from an outer surface of the hollow cylinder and the cylinder mounting foot is releasably engaged with a

rod shaft reel seat for mounting the hollow cylinder to the rod shaft.

Bull also teaches a reel with a reel mounting foot mounted to the outer surface of the hollow cylinder 14 with clamps 18. As mentioned above, the rod 16 is inserted in the cavity of the hollow cylinder 14. This is contrary to the present invention where the reel is mounted to an auxiliary reel seat through a reel mounting foot and at least a portion of the auxiliary reel seat is releasably and slidably inserted into the cavity of the hollow cylinder with the reel extending outwardly therefrom.

Amended claim 1 is patentable over Bull.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent No. 5,992,717 to Clewes et al. in view US patent No. 2,995,855 to Bell.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9 depend on claim 1 which is novel and inventive.

Moreover, both Clewes et al. and Bell disclose a fishing rod with a rod shaft and a unique reel seat which is secured on the rod shaft. A reel assembly is directly mounted on the reel seat. This is contrary to the present invention. The reel is mounted to the auxiliary reel seat inserted into the cavity of a hollow cylinder, which has a cylinder mounting foot engaged with the rod shaft reel seat. The rod shaft reel seat is in turn mounted to the rod shaft of the fishing rod.

Both Clewes et al. and Bell teach mounting feet extending outwardly from a hollow cylinder, and engaged with a plate mounted on the fisherman's garments. The rod is connected to the hollow cylinder by inserting the rod shaft into the cavity of the hollow cylinder and not through the mounting feet. The case does not include a mounting foot engaging the rod shaft reel seat, which is mounted to the rod shaft. That teaches away from the present invention wherein the hollow cylinder has a cylinder mounting foot releasably engaged with the rod shaft reel seat for mounting the hollow cylinder to the rod shaft.

Consequently, dependent claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9 are also novel and inventive.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over US patent No. 5,992,717 to Clewes et al. in view US patent No. 2,995,855 to Bell as applied to claim 2

and further in view of US patent No. 2,598,021 to Schwanke or US patent No. 2,452,279 to Young.

Claims 4 and 5 depend on claims 1 and 2 which are novel and non-obvious. Therefore, claims 4 and 5 are also novel and non-obvious.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent No. 5,992,717 to Clewes et al. in view US patent No. 2,995,855 to Bell as applied to claim 2 and further in view of US patent No. 5,632,427 to Gattuso et al.

Claim 6 depends on claim 1 which is novel and inventive. Therefore, claim 6 is also novel and inventive.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent No. 2,995,855 to Bell.

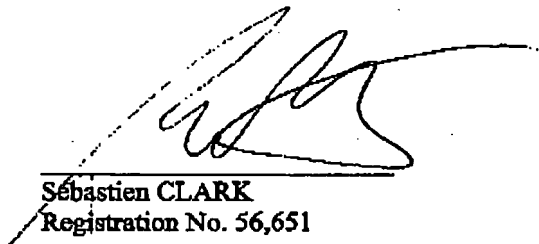
Claim 3 depends on claim 1 which is novel and inventive. Therefore, claim 3 is also novel and inventive.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that persecution of this application may be expedited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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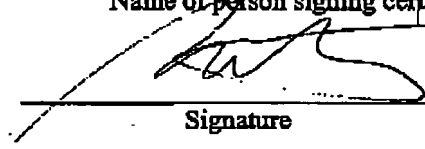
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